

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of JAMES MICHAEL-LEE
BELCHER, JR., Minor.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

JAMES MICHAEL-LEE BELCHER,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

HEATHER RAYNAE GRIFFIN,

Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED

August 24, 2004

No. 254021

Charlevoix Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 03-005668-NA

Before: Hoekstra, P.J., and Cooper and Kelly, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent Belcher appeals as of right from a circuit court order terminating his parental rights to the minor child pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(a)(ii), (e), (g), and (j). We affirm.

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that at least one statutory ground for termination had been proved by clear and convincing evidence. *In re IEM*, 233 Mich App 438, 450; 592 NW2d 751 (1999). The child was placed with limited guardians in May 2000. In January 2001, the court granted a change of custody and authorized visitation to reintegrate the child into respondent's home. Over the next year, respondent visited the child only three times and the court found that respondent's excuses did not justify all the missed visits. Due to the lack of contact between respondent and his son, they had no discernible bond and the boy viewed respondent as no more than a stranger. Further, the trial court's finding regarding the child's best interests was not clearly erroneous. *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 354, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000); MCL 712A.19b(5). Therefore, the trial court did not clearly err in terminating respondent's parental rights. *Trejo, supra* at 356-357.

Affirmed.

/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra
/s/ Jessica R. Cooper
/s/ Kirsten Frank Kelly